In the claims:

1.   A method of automatically reporting a detected network fault in a distributed communication network, comprising:

detecting the network fault;

determining whether or not the detected network fault is a reportable network fault;

generating an alarm report based upon the reportable network fault; and

distributing the alarm report based upon a distribution list in real time.

2.   A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

generating a solution recommendation based upon the reportable network fault.

3.   A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising:

logging the reportable network fault to an event logger.

4.   A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the detecting comprises:

monitoring the communication network by a monitor device;

generating a fault signal by the monitor device when the monitor device detects an out of compliance network event;

sending the fault signal to a fault detector coupled to the monitoring device; and

logging the out of compliance event to the event logger.

5.   A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the determining comprises:

determining whether or not the out of compliance event is included in

a reportable fault list;

designating the event as the reportable fault when the event is

5   determined to be included in the reportable fault list.

6.   A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the distribution list includes

destination addresses associated with the reportable fault.

10   7.   A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the distributing comprises:

determining a fault report recipient based upon the distribution list; and

sending the fault report to the determined fault report recipient by way

of a fault report communication device.

15   8.   A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the fault communication

report device is selected from the group comprising: a pager, an email server, a

display console, and a telephone.

9.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the distributed communication

20   network is a telephony over LAN (ToL) network.

10.   An apparatus coupled to a distributed communication network for

automatically reporting detected network operation faults, comprising:

a fault detector unit arranged to detect the network operation fault;

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a fault analyzer coupled to the fault detector unit arranged to ascertain whether or not the detected network operation fault is a reportable network operation fault;

an alarm notice generator unit coupled to the fault analyzer configured to generate a reportable network fault alarm notice based upon the reportable network operation fault;

a fault solution analyzer unit coupled to the alarm notice generator unit arranged to generate a fault solution report based upon a fault analysis; and

a display unit arranged to display the alarm notice and the fault solution report.

11. An apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

an event logger coupled to the fault analyzer unit arranged to record the reportable network operation fault.

12. An apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein the display unit is part of a fault report communication device that provides real time notification of the reportable network operation fault to a user.

13. An apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein the fault communication report device is selected from the group comprising: a pager, an email server, a display console, and a telephone.

14. An apparatus as recited in claim 13, wherein the distributed communication network is a telephony over LAN (ToL) network.

15. An apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

a monitor device coupled to the fault detector arranged to monitor the

communication network for an out of compliance network operating event, the

monitor device generates a fault signal when the monitor device detects the out of

5   compliance network operating event, and wherein the monitor device forwards the

fault signal to the fault detector.

16. An apparatus as recited in claim 10, wherein the fault analyzer

determines whether or not the out of compliance network operating

10   event is included in a reportable fault list and designates the event as the reportable

when the event is determined to be included in the reportable fault list.